

CLAIMS

1. A load carrying vehicle which has a body forming a load carrying compartment above a load deck, the vehicle including a load item carrier structure that is located within the load carrying compartment and that includes
 - 5 a plurality of load platforms for supporting load items thereon; and a platform support structure located along the longitudinal centre line of the load deck, the platform support structure defining, for each load platform, a plurality of support formations at different levels above the load deck and providing for at least partial support of the load platform at a selected level above a side half of the load deck, as determined by the support formations.
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2. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 1, in which each load platform comprises a substantially rectangular platform which can be supported by the platform support structure at locations coinciding with one longitudinal edge of the platform.
- 15 3. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 1 or Claim 2, in which the platform support structure includes, for each load platform, a pair of spaced support posts that define the support formations for the load platform and that are secured between the load deck and the body forming the load carrying compartment where the body defines the roof of the load carrying compartment.
- 20 4. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 3, in which each pair of support posts defines support formations for supporting, at least partially, a load platform on each side of the centre line of the load deck above each half of the load deck.

5. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 3 or Claim 4, in which the platform support structure includes a plurality of pairs of support posts along the centre line of the load deck between opposite ends thereof, adjacent pairs of support posts each having a common post that provides for at least partial support of a platform on each side thereof, along the length of the load deck.
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6. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in any one of Claims 3 to 5, in which the support formations defined by the support posts provide for pivotal engagement of load platforms with respect to support posts, permitting displacement of the platforms between an operative position, in which they are disposed substantially parallel to the load deck of the vehicle above the load deck and in which load items can be supported thereon, and an inoperative position, in which they are folded substantially into a plane defined by the support posts.
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7. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 6, in which each load platform has pin-like formations projecting longitudinally therefrom in opposite directions from opposite sides of the platform and the support formations defined by the support posts define complementary engagement formations that can receive and locate respective pin-like formations in a configuration in which pivotal support of the platform is provided for.
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8. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 6 or Claim 7, in which the platform support structure includes at least one holding member for each platform, for holding the platform in its operative position.
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9. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 8, in which the platform support structure includes two holding members for each platform.
10. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 9, in which the holding members, for each load platform, comprise adjustable length legs that can act between their load
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platform and the load deck of the vehicle for holding the load platform in its operative position.

11. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 10, in which the adjustable length legs for each load platform are secured to their platform at a location along the longitudinal edge of the platform that is disposed remote from the longitudinal edge thereof that is supported by the support posts, the operative lower ends of the legs being releasably locatable with respect to the load deck to provide for the support of the load platform in its operative position.
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12. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 10 or Claim 11, in which the legs for each load platform are hingedly secured to their load platform in a configuration in which they can fold onto the platform and be held in this position with respect to the platform, while the platform is disposed in its inoperative position.
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13. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in any one of Claims 10 to 12, in which the vehicle has straps that can be suspended from the roof defined by the body of the load carrying compartment thereof, the straps defining engagement formations along the length thereof that are releasably engageable with complementary formations defined along the edge of each platform remote from the posts permitting, through such engagement, release of the platform from the posts and hence, by a tilting action, raising or lowering of the platform with respect to the posts and re-engagement with the posts, following which the length of the legs can be adjusted and the platform can be released from the straps.
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14. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 9, in which the holding members, for each load platform, are elongate struts that act between their platform and the support posts supporting the platform, the struts being pivotally secured to their platform and releasably engageable with respect to the support posts supporting the platform at different levels, that accommodate different platform levels.
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15. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 14, in which the ends of the struts that are engaged with support posts define pin-like formations projecting therefrom and the support posts define complementary engagement formations that can receive and locate the pin-like formations in a configuration in which adjustment of the position of the struts with respect to their support posts is permitted.
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16. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the load item carrier structure includes locking means for releasably locking each platform in its load carrying configuration with respect to the platform support structure at each selected level above a side half of the load deck.
- 10 17. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 16, in which the locking means include locking pins that can cooperate with the platform support structure.
18. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in any one of the preceding claims, in which the roof defined by the body of the load carrying compartment, of the vehicle is secured on the walls defined by the body that surround the compartment in a configuration in which the roof can be raised with respect to the said walls into a position in which loading of the load carrying compartment is facilitated.
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19. A load carrying vehicle as claimed in Claim 18, which includes a lifting and lowering mechanism for lifting and lowering the roof defined by the body of the load carrying compartment, the lifting and lowering mechanism being operable externally of the compartment by a lever arrangement.
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20. A load item carrier structure for a load carrying vehicle having a body forming a load carrying compartment above a load deck, the load item carrier structure, in its operative configuration located within the load carrying compartment of a vehicle, including

a plurality of load platforms for supporting load items thereon; and

5 a platform support structure located along the longitudinal centre line of the load deck of the vehicle, the platform support structure defining, for each load platform, a plurality of support formations at different levels above the load deck and providing for at least partial support of the load platform at a selected level above a side half of the load deck, as determined by the support formations.

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21. A load item carrier structure of a load carrying vehicle having a body forming a load carrying compartment above a load deck, which includes the features of the load item carrier structure of the load carrying vehicle as claimed in any one of Claims 1 to 17.